Text. Mtt.5:6 Blessed arethey that hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled.

Topic- INTENSE SPIRITUAL LONGING.

Intro. Text assigned by Mrs.Stoddard. Based on Anthem in connection Psalm 42:1,2,11. Would be pleased to receive other texts and subjects.

A BRIEF EXPOSITION OF TEXT.

1. The fundamental physical necessities- hunger and thirst are used in the O T. symbolizing spiritual longing.

Ps.42:1-2. As the hart panteth after the water brooks so panteth my soul after thee, O God.
My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God.

Ps.63:1-2 O God, thou art my God, earnestly will I seek thee;
My soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee,
In a dry and weary land where no water is.

Also this longing is satisfied, God giving the promise.

Ps.107:9 For he satisfieth the longing soul,
And the hungry soul he filleth with good.

Isaiah 55:2 Hearken diligently unto me and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.

Jer.51:25 For I have satisfied the weary soul, and every pining soul have I replenished.

2.//As/to/the/meaning/of/the/word/RIGHTEOUSNESS/in/the/text.

3.The same symbolism used in the N.T.

Replying to the woman of Samaria at the well, Jesus said,"Every one that drinketh of this water shall thirst again; but whosoever should drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up unto eternal life."

Jn:635 Sesus said unto them,I am the bread of life: he that cometh unto me shall not hunger, and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

4.As to the meaning of the word RIGHTEOUSNESS in the text.
The righteousness which men are to seek is the righteousness which Jesus explains thruout the the entire sermon on the Mount and which he enjoins upon all his disciples.

The Jewish technical term RIGHTEOUSNESS meant that quality and and degree of character and conduct which God requires of men. It was ever the aim of Jesus to correct and perfect man's conception of righteousness, and to inspire him to its actual realization. Inasmuch as it consists in right charwcter and service righteousness must be achieved by each individual, with the help of God thru Christ. And its achievement is a process of growt h into the likeness of Christ's own example.

Righteousness, then, is rightness; justice with mercy; goodness. As Alexandæ r MacLaren paraphrases the text," Bleseed are the men and women who long more than for anything else to be good."

I. A good appetite, ~~as indicated by~~ real hunger and thirst, is a blessing in itself.

1. It indicates a healthy condition. a fading appetite indicates something the matter
2. It also indicates that the ~~body has been~~ energy and vitality of the body have been used up thru exercise of somekind.

The hunger of the hiker.

3. Intense longing after God and righteousness indicates a healthy spiritual condition and that the soul is in need of being renewed in strength and vitality.

I.4. Hunger and thirst of the soul indicate a desire for the not yet attained- a striving after the still higher, a not being satisfided with the present attainment.

So long as we are not yet made perfect we find our satisfaction in hungering and thirsting, not in being filled.

Pro.27:7 The full soul loatheth a honeycomb;
But to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.

The blessing of a good appetite is the relish with which we enjoy all the food we eat, even the meat and taters.

II. The promise is that they that hunger and thirst after righteousness shall be filled.

1.Here and now we are filled according to our longings only to have our appetites whetted still more. We cannot be permanently satisfied with anything less than perfection itself.

We attain to perfection only in the next world. Then we shall be satisfied indeed, not with our longings, but with God Himself- His love and righteousness will satisy us even more than our earnestly desiring Him here has.

Is our appetite for Christianity failing? Why do we not long for God and righteousness more than we do? Why are we not hungering and thirsting after righteousness?

1.There is a difference between our physical and our spiritual appetites. The physical appetite grows with our bodies without any conscious effort on our part. In fact, a real healthy and active person never need to worry about his appetite or even think of it.

But our appetite for God and righteousness, our craving above all else for that which is right, good and just, depends upon our conscious and constant effort of will. It takes the dominant desire of our life and our greatest effort to maintain and increase spiritual appetite.

2.Furthermore, there is a difference between our desire for the things of this world, such as riches, pleasures, comforts, the gratification of passions, and our longing for God to be right and just and true and good and loving. Appetite for the things of this world, like the bodily appetite, needs no ~~con~~ stimulus of conscious effort-it just grows like weeds do. It requires no great effort of will nor exercise of mind to learn to desire money or property or pleasures or comforts. On the other hand, it does require a stern purpose onto the very end and an unceasing activity to create and maintain a healthy desire for

God and righteousness.

Ours is a generation of JAZZ. We are ragging thru life. We have flung responsibility to the winds, are out for one grand big time. It takes too much mental effort to maintain a taste for real-good music and for real worth while living, and so we are trying to make ourselves believe that jazzing is the only thing worth while afterall. It requires to great an effort of mind and will to choose an ideal of character for ourselves and practice a conduct consistant with the ideal, and so we meet all circumstances of life by way of least resistance on our part, satisfied with whatever character comes our way and content with a conduct that will pass muster within the limit of conventional respectability. And so, on with the dance of lustful greed and selfish pleasure, let us rag to the tune of Money for Money has the church of Christ bluffed and the educational system muzzled, the governments bought and the nations of the world subservient to to the influence and standard of filthy lucre. The whole of life has been commercialized and goodness is at a premium only as it it loyal to the system and serves the purposes of the powers that be. God is no longer needed for He interferes with business.

3.We have not taken the instruction of Jesus sufficiently to heart.

1. Ye must be born again.
2. Ye must be baptized with the Holy Spirit of God.
3. Ye must create and maintain a ravenous appetite for God and righteousness to withstand the allurements of modern life.
4. Ye must work unceasingly- maintain an unflagging industry for that which is right and good and just and true.
5. Ye must obey God implicitly; have a profound respect for His Law and Order
6. Ye must practice humility reverently- maintain the attitude of a learner.
7. Ye must pray earnestly and unceasingly.